Attorney gives Bremer diary to U.S. Attorney

BALTIMORE (AP) — The U.S. attorney's office here Wednesday began its study of a 148-page diary purportedly written by Arthur Bremer to determine whether, as officials expect, the Milwaukee busboy acted alone when he shot former Alabama Gov. George Wallace in 1972.

"It would be irresponsible of us not to take a look at the document," said U.S. Attorney Russell T. Baker Jr. "We fully expect that it will show ... he acted alone ... And if it does, we'll simply return it and that will be that."

If it doesn't, he added, then a case might be presented to a grand jury. Baker said the diary will be turned over to the FBI.

Wednesday morning Madison, Wis., attorney Margaret Shields asked a U.S. District judge to order that the diary be kept secret. Later, however, she withdrew her request and turned the diary over to Baker.

Shields dropped her plea for secrecy after an angry rebuke from judge Frank S. Kaufman, who pointed out that she had not met two essential legal requirements in making her secrecy request.

During the court hearing, Shields also said Baker had given her assurances that the contents of the diary would remain secret.

Shields and lawyer Jack McManus represent Sherman R. Griffin, a Dalton, Wis., construction worker who found the document near the Bremer's Milwaukee home.

McManus, who remained in Wisconsin Wednesday, has said the secrecy order was requested in an effort to protect his client from any monetary loss "should the diary be leaked out to the press" before Griffin had a chance to sell publishing rights.

"We haven't had it authenticated yet, but I have no doubt" it is Bremer's, Ms. Shields said.

One of the reasons federal authorities are interested in the diary is because of numerous conspiracy theories that circulated after Wallace was shot in Laurel, Md., while campaigning for the presidency. He was paralyzed from the shooting.

Baker said the diary had not been presented to a grand jury. He said the FBI "is going to read" the document.

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